

# Commissioners mull posting info on Web

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The Sullivan County Commission discussed during a meeting Tuesday afternoon posting all documents from its meetings on the Web to provide up-to-date information to the public.

"What we're talking about is providing information to the public," commissioner Jeff Barrette said. "It's nice to have people pay attention to where their tax dollars are going."

Acting county manager Greg Chanis said he was in favor of the move, but added that some of the reports presented at the meetings are incomplete and do not necessarily show all income and expenses.

"What I'm concerned about is getting the information out there and having it misinterpreted," Chanis said.

Chanis suggested to the commission that it make a policy regarding the posting of documents.

"I think it's a great idea, but there needs to be a procedure in place," Chanis said.

According to Barrette, a majority of the information presented at a meeting is not

relevant by the time it is posted.

"Most of the documentation we have is not pertinent by the time it hits the Web," Barrette said.

The commission decided to have Chanis make a list of what items should be posted and discuss the matter at its next meeting.

One of the documents that could be posted was a lease agreement with the state to rent the superior court and was presented to the commission by Chanis.

Chanis told the commission that there has not been an increase in the lease payments since 2003, so he sent a counter proposal to the state asking for more money.

The state initially proposed paying \$566,028 for a three-year agreement and an additional \$389,956 for an optional two-year extension. Chanis sent the state a counter proposal and the state agreed to pay \$584,064 for the three-year term and \$412,766 for the two-year option for a total increase of \$40,846.

"You generally don't win when you start negotiating with the state," Barrette said.

Included in the agreement is a one-time payment of \$18,515 from the state for renovations. They include installing an automatic front door and renovations to the

first-floor public rest rooms, the courtroom and the court clerical area.

"I think it's a very fair agreement," Chanis said.

Commissioner Ethel Jarvis made a motion at the end of the meeting to post the draft form of all meeting minutes as soon as they are completed, instead of waiting for them to be approved.

The current practice is to post the minutes after they are approved by the commission, but the draft form is available at the commissioner's office, once they are completed.

"I don't see why the public can't be reading them," Jarvis said. "People are curious and I don't see why we can't. When corrections are made they are usually minuscule."

The motion was tabled until the next meeting because commissioner Ben Nelson was not at the meeting and the other two commissioners wanted to discuss the matter when everyone was present.

Sullivan County is on the Web at [www.sullivancountynh.gov](http://www.sullivancountynh.gov).

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